

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 90,977.

Amended claim 1 makes clear that the curved peripheral bevel of the bearing surface of the end flange is convex whereas that of the cited reference DE 90977 is concave.

As shown in Figures 2-6 and the corresponding description on pages 3 and 4 of the present application, the convex shape of the curvedly beveled bearing surface of the end flange is essential to obtain correct opening of the clamping jaw when a force R is applied. In fact, the convex shape allows the release opposing force to decrease towards the periphery of the bearing surface so as to compensate for a decrease in the arm of the opening force.

In contrast, the flange of DE 90977 has the drawback explained on page 4, lines 12-17, of the description of the present application, i.e., its concave shape may cause blocking of the opening of the jaw when the jaw reaches the peripheral portion of the bearing surface of the flange.

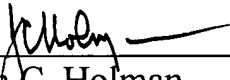
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably

distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By: 
John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666
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JCH/JLS:ms